

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4390

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS BL

SUBJ: PUBLICATION OF ALLEGED YOUNG OFFICERS' DECLARATION STIRS

CONTROVERSY

REF: LA PAZ 1699; LA PAZ 1546

BEGIN SUMMARY. RECENT PUBLICATION OF POLITICAL DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS HAS OPENED MAJOR CONTROVERSY OVER AUTHORSHIP AND AUTHENTICITY OF THE STATEMENT. AT SAME TIME, GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED LEGAL ACTION AGAINST TWO NEWSPAPERS AND ONE RADIO STATION WHICH GAVE PUBLICITY TO DOCUMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. A POLITICAL STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY ISSUED BY A GROUP OF YOUNG MILITARY

OFFICERS HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND CONTROVERSY SINCE ITS PUBLICATION DURING PAST WEEK. AFTER FIRST APPEARING IN LOCAL IPE PRIVATE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, PARTS OF DOCUMENT WERE RE-PUBLISHED IN NUEVA JORNADA OF LA PAZ JULY 14, AND IN LOS TIEMPOS OF COCHABAMBA ON JULY 14 AND 15; IN ADDITION, RADIO "CRUZ DEL SUR" BROADCAST NEWS ITEMS ON THE DOCUMENT JULY 13 AND 14. BOTH NEWSPAPERS AND THE RADIO STATION HAVE NOW BEEN THREATENED WITH LEGAL ACTION BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE "LAW OF SECURITY OF THE STATE".

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(NOTE: AS REPORTED IN LA PAZ 1699 AND 1546, THIS LAW DEFINES POLITICAL CRIMES AND ESTABLISHES PENALTIES FOR SAME; IT ENTERED INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 12, 1973.)

2. OFFICIAL REACTION TO PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENT WAS IMMEDIATE AND HIGHLY NEGATIVE. IN ADDITION TO LEGAL STEPS TAKEN AGAINST MEDIA, ACTING PRESIDENT MARIO GUTIERREZ AND MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL DEFENSE SOUGHT TO CAST DOUBT UPON AUTHENTICITY OF DOCUMENT, CITING FACT THAT NO SIGNATURES WERE ATTACHED TO ORIGINAL DECLARATION. IN A STATEMENT TO PRESS JULY 18, GENERAL ELADIO SANCHEZ GIRONDA, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, HINTED THAT THE MILITARY HAD INFORMATION ON ACTUAL IDENTITY OF AUTHORS OF THIS DOCUMENT.

3. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT WHICH GAVE RISE TO CONTROVERSY IS THREE-PAGE TYPEWRITTEN STATEMENT, DATED MAY 2, 1973 AND PURPORTEDLY ISSUED IN LA PAZ BY THE "CENTRAL GENERAL STAFF OF THE YOUNG OFFICERS." PRINCIPAL

FEATURE OF THE STATEMENT IS AN ELEVEN-POINT PROGRAM OF POLITICAL ACTION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. CONSOLIDATE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, ELIMINATING THE FACTORS THAT HINDER CONSIDERATION OF BOLIVIA AN AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. END THE MYTH OF ITS LANDLOCKED CONDITION.
2. SEEK GREATER PARTICIPATION BY PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIAL CLASSES, BUT BASICALLY RELY UPON THE GREAT MAJORITY OF NEEDY PEOPLE.
3. PROMOTE THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH REALISTIC POLICIES WHICH SECURE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND DETER ANY INCREASE IN OUR DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN CAPITAL.
4. OUTLINE COHERENT POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, PLACING SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE SOCIAL ASPECTS AND THE REDISTRIBUTION OF INCOME BY MEANS OF GREATER STATE INTERFERENCE IN ALL FIELDS.
5. ADJUST MONETARY AND CREDIT POLICIES TO OUR PRIORITY OBJECTIVES, PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL INDUSTRIES AND COOPERATING IN THE GENERATION OF INTERNAL SAVINGS.
6. OUTLINE A REASONABLE STRUCTURE FOR OUR FOREIGN COMMERCE SEEKING ITS EFFECTIVE CONTROL BY THE STATE.
7. INDUSTRIALIZE THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

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8. COMBAT ILLITERACY AND MAKE EDUCATION THE MAIN INSTRUMENT FOR A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF OUR NATIONAL VALUES.
9. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MAINTAIN A POLICY INDEPENDENT OF THE DOMINANT BLOCS AND WORK CLOSELY WITH THE COUNTRIES WHICH AREA ALIGNED TOGETHER IN THE THIRD WORLD AND IN A STATE OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT.
10. STRENGTHEN THE ARMED FORCES BY CREATING AN ADEQUATE SYSTEM OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, AND MODERNIZING AND UPDATING

THEIR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL.

11. AVOID SECTARIAN PARTY POLICIES, SEEKING A FUTURE
BASED ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED POINTS.

DOCUMENT ALSO WARNS ALL YOUNG OFFICERS TO REMAIN ALERT TO FRUSTRATE
"ANTI-NATIONAL COUPS", AND PROCLAIMS GENERAL NEED TO CHANGE
STRUCTURES WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES.

4. EMBASSY HAS NOW OBTAINED COPY OF ALLEGED "MESSAGE NUMBER 2 OF THE
CENTRAL GENERAL STAFF OF THE YOUNG OFFICERS," WHICH BEARS THE TITLE:
"THE HOUR OF DECISION HAS ARRIVED". OF INTEREST IS FACT THAT THIS
DOCUMENT, DATED JULY 1973, PURPORTS TO HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN COCHABAMBA,

WHERE MANY YOUNG OFFICERS ARE STATIONED WITH MILITARY UNITS OR IN
ATTENDANCE AT ESCUELA DE COMANDO Y ESTADO MAYOR. THIS SECOND DOCUMENT
CONSISTS OF AN "EVALUATION" OF REACTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE
PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST STATEMENT, PLUS A HARSH ATTACK ON BOTH
THE "INEPTITUDE OF THE HIGH COMMAND" AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE
FPN, DESCRIBING THE LATTER AS BEING HEADED BY "THE MOST UNQUALIFIED AND

INEFFECTIVE ELEMENTS." THE DOCUMENT ALSO REJECTS ALLEGED
ATTEMPTS BY MANY CIVILIAN POLITICIANS TO ASSUME ROLE OF POLITICAL
MENTORS OF YOUNG OFFICERS' GROUP.

5. COMMENT: AT PRESENT, EMBASSY CANNOT DEFINITELY CONFIRM OR DENY
AUTHENTICITY OF THESE TWO DOCUMENTS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, SECOND
DECLARATION HAS NOT AS YET RECEIVED PUBLICITY IN THE MEDIA NOR DO WE
THINK IT WILL BE SO PUBLICIZED, GIVEN FIRM GOVERNMENTAL REACTION TO
EXPOSURE GIVEN INITIAL DOCUMENT. EMBASSY CURRENTLY IS ATTEMPTING
TO DETERMINE TRUE ORIGIN OF THESE DOCUMENTS, AS WELL AS REACTION
TO THEIR PUBLICATION IN BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY CIRCLES.
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